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TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – J.E.E.B.
CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, INC. - J.E.E.B. GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of J.E.E.B. Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

J.E.E.B. Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 7-14 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, J.E.E.B. Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. J.E.E.B. Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to improve the condition of the residents' bathroom; develop Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that are specific and measurable; develop comprehensive quarterly reports that discuss the goals of the NSPs; document the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSPs; maintain current court authorizations for all residents who are prescribed psychotropic medication; inform residents of their right to refuse medication; and provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain life books/photo albums.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Interim Chief Probation Officer
Bennie Wharton, Executive Director, J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc.
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Inc.
J.E.E.B. Group Home
3703 South Genesee Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90016
Phone: (323) 292-8994
License No.: 191800663
Rate Classification Level: 7**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The J.E.E.B. Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained and blends well with other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home needs some improvement. The bathroom cabinet is missing knobs and has water damage. Also, portions of the grout on the bathroom floor are broken, missing, and stained.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc., management:**
 - a. Repair or replace the bathroom cabinet.**
 - b. Repair or replace the bathroom floor.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the goals are not specific or measurable. There is no documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports are current; however, they do not appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations**2. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc., management:**

- a. **Develop NSPs that are specific and measurable.**
- b. **Document placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- c. **Develop quarterly reports that appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Residents attend local public and non-public schools. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for the residents who require Special Education services. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills and hygiene care is discussed as needed. Residents are involved in the planning phase of meals.

Residents do not require emancipation or vocational programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for four case files

Comments:

Two of the four residents prescribed psychotropic medication have current court authorizations. The other two residents who were prescribed psychotropic medication did not have current and/or complete court authorizations.

Documentation confirms that the prescribing psychiatrist routinely sees the children.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc., management obtain current and complete court authorizations for all residents who are prescribed psychotropic medication.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are not aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

4. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc., management ensure that residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain life books/photo albums.

Recommendation

- 5. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Inc., management provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain life books/photo albums.**